

Tuesday July 2 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,594

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Why John Travolta walked out on Roman Polanski

The movie from hell

with European weather



Education

Cuts and the despair of the dons

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The modernisers v the agonisers

New Labour, new danger?



New hero ends long run of British under-achievement at Wimbledon

Henman breaks tennis mould

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

TIM HENMAN beat the rain, the cold and the inbred tennis pessimism of a nation to reach the quarter-finals of Wimbledon yesterday, the first British man to do so since Roger Taylor in 1973.

Then Taylor beat Bjorn Borg on his way to the semi-finals. Yesterday Henman faced another Swede, Magnus Gustafsson, and won with gusto and untypically British nerve, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6. In the next round he faces the only seed in the bottom half of the draw, Todd Martin, or another Swede, Thomas Johansson.

The emotion of the crowd was high though the temperature on centre court was low. "It must be difficult for my opponents," mused Henman. "It must feel sometimes as if they are playing against 15,000 people. You can play three terrible shots and the crowd makes you forget them straight away and that is an advantage."

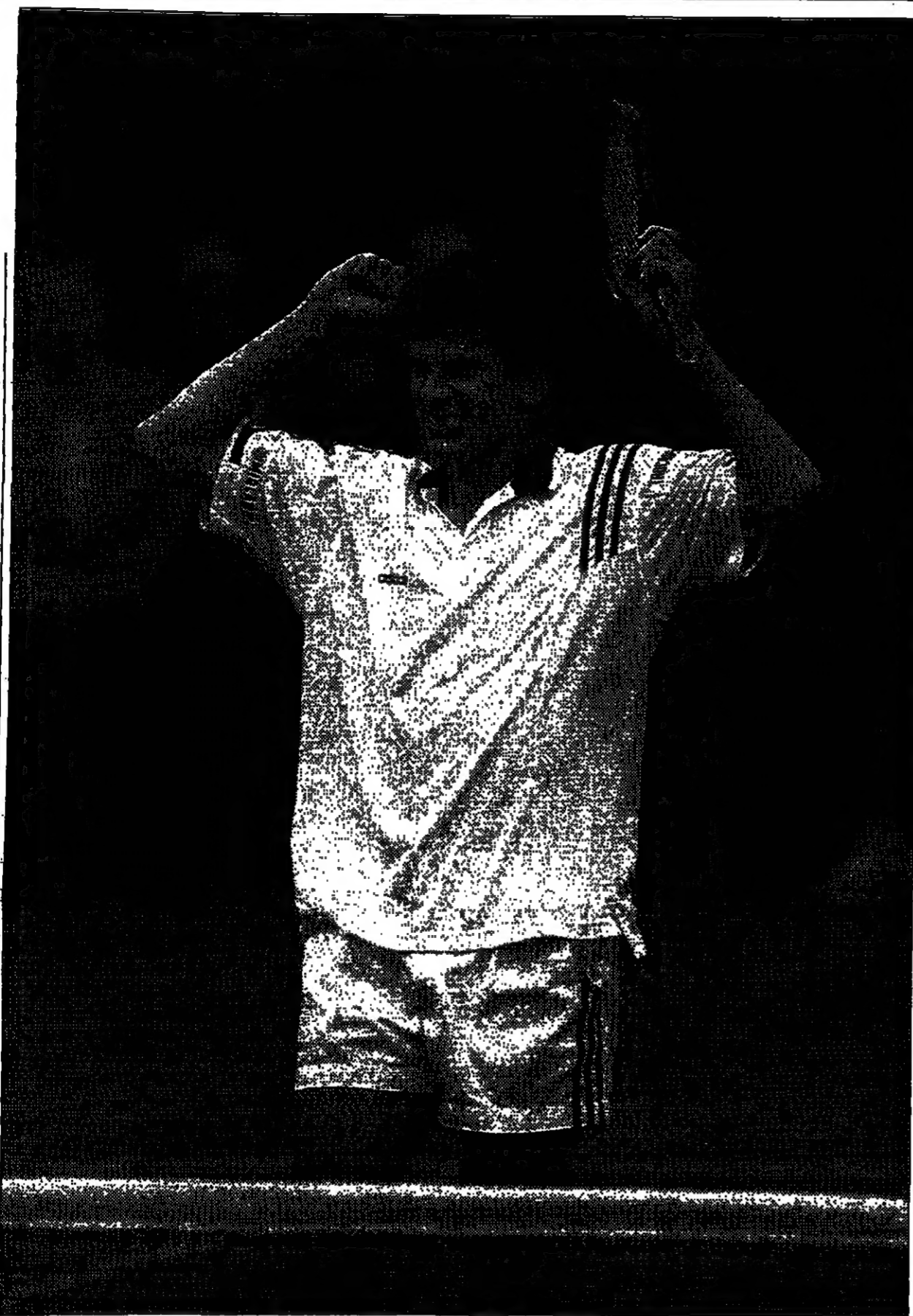
It was tough for both players to get going with four frustrating interruptions for rain before the second set was even through.

"When I was young I understood that Wimbledon was the biggest event in the season," said Henman. "And I saw good performances from British players who never went as far as they should. That was an incentive to put the record straight."

He did that and more. With the final match-point on Henman's serve in the tiebreak Gustafsson returned weakly and the crowd erupted to salute Henman's win.

"I feel very confident in the way I'm playing," he said. "There are still good players in the draw but I am just going to concentrate on what I am doing. I was in the last 16, now I'm in the last eight. That's it."

Wimbledon, page 16



Tim Henman salutes the crowd after his triumph at Wimbledon yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Blair now No 1 Tory target

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major's cabinet yesterday endorsed the switch towards a more negative advertising campaign in the run-up to the general election after admitting that the Conservatives' propaganda offensive against New Labour has seriously underestimated the scale of Tony Blair's policy reversal.

Key advisers on Tory election strategy, Maurice Saatchi, Peter Gummer and Sir Tim Bell, joined forces with the party chairman, Brian Mayhew, at yesterday's special political session to persuade the Cabinet that recent attacks - including the "Yes, It Hurt, Yes, It Worked" poster campaign - have failed to land serious blows on Blairism.

Instead of trying to persuade voters that Mr Blair has changed but his party has not - the Clause IV win sunk that tactic, officials admit - or that he is too inexperienced to lead yet another bad Labour government - 40 per cent of voters barely remember a Labour government - the Tory machine will insist that New Labour's chosen policies are "wrong, bad and dangerous".

The switch will be unveiled at a press conference at party HQ in Westminster today, with the expected slogan "New Labour, New Danger".

two days ahead of Mr Blair's launch of the much-hyped "Road to the manifesto" policy statement, for which 350,000 party members will be asked to vote.

The Cabinet's strategic U-turn was "immediately signalled by a barrage of ministerial fire against Labour's new statement on health policy and the row which broke out in the wake of Mr Blair's own U-turn in favour of a devolution referendum - which, ironically, his party critics blame on the effectiveness of Tory propaganda, notably the "tartan tax" campaign.

The health secretary, Stephen Dorrell, called that "a public humiliation" for Mr Blair, proof that his ideas were "unworkable and dangerous" as well as shamelessly expedient.

Labour's deputy leader John Prescott retaliated by calling it "John Major's 25th relaunch (which) merely confirms the disarray they are in over how to handle Tony Blair. It will flop like all the rest."

Both sides are braced for a snap election in October or November, although Mr Major told the cabinet yesterday he hopes to soldier on to the spring and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, repeated his upbeat weekend message that an economic feel-good factor is coming back. But Labour remains 20 points ahead in most polls.

Although Paddy Ashdown conspicuously refrained from a personal attack, other Liberal Democrats, including Sir David Steel, joined the onslaught on Mr Blair's alleged "autocracy", fuelled by an outspoken radio attack on "timid and anaemic" New Labour policies by the backbench rebel, Paul Flynn.

single currency and the social chapter, union power and the minimum wage, even education and crime on which Labour's rightwards policy shifts have been conspicuous.

In the wake of the 2 1/2 hour Cabinet meeting senior Conservative officials tried to put a positive gloss on the implicit admission that a series of advertising campaigns have missed their intended target: the Blair leadership which has swept aside Clause 4 and other perceived symbols of past Labour weakness.

As the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was called in to dampen down the post-devolution row within Labour's ranks, ministers have their own problems, not least the rebellion over Defence Secretary Michael Portillo's plans to sell £1.5 billion of military homes to help raise money for Mr Clarke's budget.

Yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, took the unusual step of letting it be known he supported the policy of his potential rival in a future leadership contest - at a time when a deliberate campaign of Portillo-bashing is being attributed to supporters of John Redwood.

Labour, which was devastated by the cumulative impact of "tax bombshell" attacks in 1992, has been warned off too much negative advertising. Voters want "a positive message and a change of government", Gordon Brown told Channel 4 News last night.

Politics, page 5; Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, The view within the Labour party, page 9

Nanny dishes dirt on Israel's First Lady

PM's au pair claims unfair dismissal over burnt soup

Shyam Bhatta in Jerusalem

THE tones of a monumental slanging match were echoing around Israel yesterday, after the ousting from the prime ministerial residence of the country's "First Nanny" by its First Lady.

In a clash apparently ignited by some burnt vegetable soup, Tanya Shaw was out on the street and sparring law and order activists in recounting her alleged treatment at the hands of Sara Netanyahu, wife of the prime minister and holder of a brand new Master's degree in clinical child psychology.



Sara Netanyahu: 'called security guard' to evict Shaw



Tanya Shaw: 'If anybody is unstable it's Mrs Netanyahu'

opened her to a murderer and demanded 5,000 Shekels (£1,000) for allowing her to peck.

A statement issued from Binyamin Netanyahu's office said Ms Shaw was dismissed for security reasons, and described her as "unstable" and prone to "outbursts of violence". It said the au pair had been responsible for a fire that broke out in the kitchen

and had consequently been dismissed on the recommendation of security officials.

"The Netanyahu family regret her difficult situation and her lies and imaginary claims, and express their readiness to help in her rehabilitation," the statement said. Asked by Israeli army radio if she was disturbed, Ms Shaw replied: "If anybody is unstable it's her [Mrs Netanyahu]

... If I'm so unstable, could she let me be with her children for six months?"

The Netanyahus are due to make their first official visit to Washington next week. The South African-born au pair had been due to accompany them to look after their two young sons, Ya'ir, aged four and a half, and Avner, aged one and a half.

Speaking to the Guardian, a tearful Ms Shaw said Mrs Netanyahu had summoned her indoors on Sunday "with an angry face".

"She shouted: 'You've burnt the soup, you could have burnt the house.' She screamed at me a lot of things and didn't give me an opportunity to say I was sorry."

Ms Shaw said she promised to leave within two weeks, but was told: "You are stupid and irresponsible. Because you are leaving my children, you are like a murderer."

When she started packing her bags, Ms Shaw said, a security guard was called to evict her. "The policeman didn't want to interfere, so Sara called the secret service agent."

hours later and was handed her passport and clothes.

Ms Shaw said: "She used to make me wash my hands 300 times a day. You weren't allowed to touch anything... One child was forced to sit on the couch for hours; he was told not to touch the carpet because it was dirty."

"She even took my pictures with her husband and the children. I feel so much for the children, I feel sorry for them. They've been through so many au pairs."

Mrs Netanyahu, aged 37, is the prime minister's third wife and was married before. She met Mr Netanyahu when he was Israel's ambassador to the United Nations and she was an air hostess with the national carrier, El Al.

Two years ago, the marriage was shaken when Mr Netanyahu, then leader of the Likud opposition, publicly admitted an extra-marital affair.

Since becoming Israel's first directly elected prime minister in May, Mr Netanyahu has endorsed a presidential style of government. Critics say he wants to turn his office into an Israeli White House.



"The skies wept and very probably Gazza did too... but there was to be no balcony kiss to lift the fans' hearts nor even a glimpse of the happy couple. The player had booked every room in the hotel to keep out unwanted guests... But the man from the Sun was rumoured to be somewhere on the golf course"

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Sketch

Tories in a spin on finishing line



Simon Hoggart

THese are strange days. As I walked into the Commons Chamber, a Tory spin doctor was handing out documents which contained ferocious attacks on the Government.

It spoke about "the wreckage of the last 18 years"; it claimed that the Conservative Party was "cheating millions of people out of an adequate pension"; and declared that the Tories were "finished".

Most of us would agree with all that, though it did seem odd that the Tories were bringing it to our attention. The reason was that these nuggets were set inside a general attack on Tony Blair made by Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West.

The burden of Mr Flynn's remarks, offered on the Today programme, was that the Tories had been so catastrophic that they stood no chance of winning the next election, and that Labour should, as a consequence, be much bolder.

For the Tories to be using the material is reminiscent of those mariners who, adrift in a lifeboat on tropical seas, finally drink the salt water. A few moments of respite are followed by redoubled agonies.

In the Chamber itself Mr Flynn was absent. However, Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, was sitting in his place on the back benches. For one terrible moment I thought Mr Dewar must have eaten him. Luckily he soon returned, and was quickly surrounded by supportive admirers. Later he sat happily reading letters, presumably offering congratulations.

Virginia Bottomley was answering questions concerning the National Heritage, or the Ministry For What We Do In Our Spare Time, which is what it means.

She is an essentially apolitical figure, so she makes up for it by attacking the Labour Party at every opportunity. Unlike an instinctive bruiser, she gets her timing wrong. It

sounds as if she learned political abuse by correspondence course.

She fumed: "I am a great believer in the traditional British seaside holiday" which is true, since the whole Bottomley clan has a vast reunion on the Isle of Wight each year. But some Labour MPs saigered. They were laughing at the image she had conjured up: of bathing machines, of one-piece costumes with skirts, donkey races, parasols and beach cricket. "Oh, well, bowled! Gimpy! Middle stump!"

But she chose to imagine that the meriment constituted an attack on British seaside towns. "They are denigrated by the party opposite, that's not our tourism industry is seaside holiday," she admonished. "That hodes ill, the denigration and jeers of the party opposite!"

Tony Banks pointed out that the new chairman of the English and British tourist boards was being paid £34,000 for three days work a week. "New Labour," she replied, "never cease to entrance the Government — they so hate success and profit!... It bodes ill for the tourism industry."

She blamed Labour for the Tube strike in London, and even managed to attack the party during a discussion on whether Britain should host the World Cup in six years' time. "It is difficult for us to know which spokesmen to take seriously. Old Labour, New Labour, Muddling Labour — we will wait for them to synchronise their voices."

Some idiot claimed that the British popular music industry "leads the world" (there's a country called the United States which some of the older Tories haven't yet heard of) and she claimed that pop music now made as much money as steel. "Boogie on, Gimpy," shouted one old Labourite.

My dear friend Michael Fabricant asked a question during the session on legal administration. "If a JP is of the hang 'em, flog 'em, and disembowel 'em tendency, he should not necessarily be disqualified," he suggested.

I was puzzled, since so far as I know JPs are no longer allowed to sentence people to a salutary disemboweling. But Mr Fabricant's view, only hanging is a punishment. The other two are rewards.

First night

Simply the best in slinky cheapness

Bob Flynn

stretch out from white micro dresses and even tiner, gray ityngs black numbers. Turner leads her three lithe backing singers into a classic synchronised, sidestepping soul dance in front of a machine-oiled, classically bland, stadium band.

Turner's voice, all chocolate rust, libido and anguish, lifts the blandest power pop ballad — and there are a lot of them in her back catalogue — on to another plane.

After the expected big entrance of Goldeneye, with Turner silhouetted in a huge Bond-style camera eye before a mechanical raft, she sits down for an acoustic set of soul classics.

For Al Green's sublime Let's Stay Together, Turner growls, pounces and sells into the vaulting chorus, while her version of I Can't Stand The Rain is as close as you get to the aching perfection of the Anne Peebles version. This is Turner showing her roots, the authentic voice out of the Mississippi delta.

Even when singing an over-extended Private Dancer and the anthem that had all of Murrayfield in an astonishing communal singalong, Simply The Best, she has, wait, the wickedest voice there is.

The finale was an epic soul review version of Proud Mary, and the encore, inevitably, Nurbush City Limits, one of the few Turner compositions. At Murrayfield, all the classic disco-stomper of our time was blown and messy by the sight of Tina, after a two-and-a-half-hour show, leaping down to run along the crash barriers, sharing the microphone with the crushed front-line punters, was enough to send the crowd into further frenzies. The biggest, gutsiest, glossiest singalong of a stadium summer crackling with the anaclets of rock.

The same golden limbs

Ailing Russian president reappears on TV but Communists allege cover-up over 'living corpse'

Yeltsin in last-ditch appeal

David Hearst in Moscow

AN expressionless Boris Yeltsin appeared on Russian television yesterday after a four-day absence but his performance, marred by speculation about his health.

The president sat behind a wooden desk in one of his official dachas, a stiff shadow of his former self, and read unconvincingly from the autocue: "I know exactly what to do. I have the strength, will and decisiveness for that. What is needed now is your support."

In a re-run of the health scares last year when Mr Yeltsin suffered two minor heart attacks, his final day of official campaigning was haunted by uncertainty and growing panic among Yeltsin supporters, who need to keep the turnout above 60 per cent for the president to be returned for a second term.

A president who is both physically and electorally weak will increase the possibility of General Alexander Lebed, the national security adviser, running amok within the administration, claiming more powers and posts. It will also play into the hands of Gennady Zyuganov, his main Communist challenger, who has been pressing for places in a coalition government.

For the fifth day running, Mr Yeltsin was forced to cancel all his official engagements, including a meeting with the Ukrainian and Moldovan presidents, Leonid Kuchma and Mircea Snegur.

On Sunday, he had missed one of his last campaign appearances, a festival organised by the newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets.

Differing official statements were made about the president's health. On Friday, he was said to be suffering from a sore throat. At the weekend this changed to laryngitis, and yesterday the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said the president had "fallen ill with a cold".

After meeting Mr Yeltsin in his residence, not in the Kremlin, Mr Chernomyrdin sought to reassure voters: "The president grabbed my right hand in a handshake and nearly tore it off. Don't worry, everything is alright."

In his two-minute television address, Mr Yeltsin concentrated on getting the voters out. He said: "You must not stay at home on July 3. If you do not vote, it is also a choice, but a choice against Russia."

His performance will have done nothing to dispel the glee of Mr Zyuganov, who appears to be coming through strongly.

The Communist leader appealed for the creation of a health commission to establish the president's fitness for power. He said: "We haven't seen Mr Yeltsin for four days. I want to see the official conclusion on the state of [his] health."

Mr Zyuganov, aged 52, added: "He's in bad shape. That's quite clear."

A key backer of Mr Zyuganov, the Nationalist MP Stanislav Govorukhin, yesterday accused Yeltsin aides of covering up the truth about the president's health.

"We haven't seen him for several days, and today they showed us a painted mummy as if they'd just got it from the mausoleum," Mr Govorukhin said. "Today they are suggesting we vote for a living corpse."

While both candidates have abandoned their campaign trips to stay in Moscow, it is Mr Zyuganov's daily press conferences that have been setting the agenda. Last week, he stated clearly that he was prepared to take part in a coalition government formed in three equal parts from his own alliance, existing govern-

ment ministers and other parliamentary factions.

Gen Lebed has also strongly backed a coalition government. Yesterday, speculation centred on offers of a position for Mr Zyuganov's number two, the charismatic and popular Kazakh politician Aman Tuleyev.

Mr Zyuganov was in confident mood yesterday, although he still maintained that he was the victim of a campaign of "information terror" by the officially controlled media. The Communist leader said: "Our support is very high. Our programme is growing. Our programme and platform have reached the depths of the provinces."

Rise of Mr Yeltsin, page 6
Leader comment, page 8



Limousines outside Hanbury Manor Hotel, where it was rumoured Gascoigne had booked every room to keep out unwanted guests. Below, the groom and bride PHOTOGRAPH SEAN SMITH

Little people left disappointed in the rain as Gazza stars in another big match

High security and blacked-out limos for soccer star's wedding. Sarah Boseley reports

THE skies wept and very probably Gazza did feel a little sorry for the little people who were unable to touch the hardest heart. Just a month ago, the Sun revealed that ex-model Sheryl was briefing lawyers to file a palimony claim, yet yesterday there she was, in acres of shouderless peach tulle, vowing to cleave to the man from Rangers for evermore.

Most of the England football team were probably there, shedding a small tear if not in happiness for their mate then perhaps at the lingering smart of Germany's European Championship victory the day before, in spite of all their glorious efforts. But it was difficult to tell through the dark glass of eight white limousines which stretched silently through the main



Gazza



Sheryl

gate of the Hanbury Manor Hotel and Country Club.

Gazza had slipped through in identical style earlier. Two local women, Valerie Knight and Tracey Kenney, swore he had wound down his window and toasted them with champagne and a huge grin.

If it is love Paul Gascoigne craves, then he already has more than most ever enjoy. He is adored by the little people who do not make headlines — those who cheer themselves hoarse at matches or wait in the rain outside the Hertfordshire hotel where their hero is getting married.

"I found out where he lives," confided Chris Beech. "It was when he had that record out — Fog on the Tyne. I knocked on his door and he answered it. I said: 'Is Gazza there?' and he said: 'Who wants him?' and I said: 'I do'. He signed his autograph." And what then? "Then I went away."

James Kember, aged 13, had been allowed to skip school. He was wearing his England shirt with Gascoigne and 8 on the back. "They cost £40," he said, "but it was £11 more with the name. I put £20 towards it and my mum and dad paid the rest." He had arrived at 9am. "I'm a bit disappointed," he said.

They cheered Terry Venables when he arrived five minutes late, but there was to be no balcony kiss nor even a glimpse of the happy couple through a car window. Sorry — Gazza and Sheryl's big day was a Hello magazine exclusive. The man from the Mirror was rumoured to have infiltrated somebody on to the golf course, but security men in Gascoigne's pay were everywhere. He had booked every room in the hotel to keep out unwelcome guests, the rumour ran, at a cost of £15,000.

Many were rooms vacated on the wedding morn-

ing by Umbro — the makers of those shirts that had cost young James such a slice of pocket money. Eighteen of its executives and their guests had been staying at Hanbury Manor to do Euro 96 in style. "They've been drinking until six every morning," said one of the staff. So Gazza's nuptials would hold no surprises.

Perhaps it was as well that civil ceremony could not be held on deconsecrated territory, disappointing the couple's first plans. The Poles Hall was a chapel in the 18th century when Hanbury Manor was a convent. The shades of the nuns, would surely have walked.

Instead, Gazza in a cream and gold frockcoat with matching baby (Regan — the couple's four-month-old son) and Sheryl in her little number by Isabell Kristensen were married in a room with zodiac signs in the ceiling. Sheryl's daughter Bianca, Jade and son Mason from her previous marriage wore cream.

How long will it last? The answer, one can only suppose, is in the stars.

'King of fat cats' takes cash while sacking staff

Utilities directors, who shared £462,400, seek to double pay

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

THE chairman of the water and electricity company, United Utilities, was accused yesterday of becoming "king of the fat cats" after it emerged that he and fellow directors had taken massive pay increases while sacking hundreds of employees.

Sir Desmond Pitcher and other board members shared a £462,400 bonus last year and took pay rises of up to 30 per cent in the wake of the company, then known as North West Water, buying regional electricity company Norweb.

With 2,500 jobs slated to go

at United in the next 3½ years, Labour and trade unions reacted furiously to disclosures in the company's annual report to shareholders that Sir Desmond's basic salary of £255,600 rose by 21 per cent in April to £310,000. Sir Desmond was paid a £76,700 bonus last year, lifting his total pay and perks package to £346,200.

Chief executive Brian Staples received an April pay rise of 27.7 per cent to £300,000. Last year he was awarded a £142,000 bonus, taking his total remuneration

to £380,700, a hike of 22 per cent on the previous year.

Both men also hold lucrative share options.

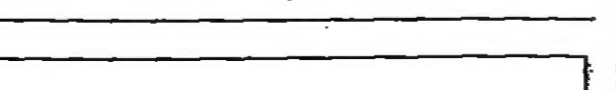
Finance director Bob Ferguson saw his pay and perks package increased last year by 30 per cent to £204,400, including a £94,500 bonus. His basic pay will be 12.7 per cent higher this year, at £176,000.

Asking shareholders to approve two new incentive schemes that will reward directors with shares and cash that could more than double salaries, the company said the pay rises were merited be-

cause of "increased responsibilities". Some past bonuses had been tied to the Norweb takeover.

But Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney, condemned Sir Desmond for displacing former British Gas chief executive Cedric Brown as the "king of the fat cats".

The GMB union forecast outrage among consumers and staff adding: "United Utilities seems to be competing with Yorkshire Water for the pig trough of the year award."



Sir Desmond Pitcher

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'The smell is often rather delicious, but I do not want to smell the food 18 hours a day'



Superchef Raymond Blanc's new restaurant in Oxford, Le Petit Blanc, which has caused a stink among residents complaining of wayward wafts and noise PHOTOGRAPHY MARTIN AROLED

Gourmet dished by neighbours

Alex Bellos and Hannah Pool on how chef Raymond Blanc's latest venture has got up the noses of some Oxford people

THEY may be some of the most exquisite culinary aromas in England, but to the neighbours of Le Petit Blanc it is nothing better than pollution.

For several weeks people living near superchef Raymond Blanc's new restaurant in Oxford have been subjected to the odours of Madeira and sweet onion sauce, sautéed gruyère and pieces of lamb roasting in their own juices.

"The smell is often rather delicious," said Lucinda Leach, whose garden is next to the restaurant kitchen. "But I do not want to smell food 18 hours a day, however delicious it is."

The philosophy behind Mr Blanc's venture, which opened last month in a blaze of publicity, was to create a quality French brasserie in the heart of Oxford "buzzing with new ideas, energy and excitement". Unfortunately for him much of the energy created has been anger fuelled in his direction.

As well as the wayward wafts, neighbours have complained about excessive noise, the "poth" clientele, and the prices.

Mr Blanc, a former European Chef of the Year, has been accused of "an extraordinary lack of respect" by Oxford planning committee chairman for failing to listen to the community in Jericho, the restaurant's location.

A spokesman for Le Petit Blanc said several alterations had been implemented after it had received complaints. "We have changed the door construction so it doesn't bang, and sorted out the noise from the refrigerator," she said. "We are committed to listening to complaints and acting on them."

Ms Leach, aged 42, a furniture designer, said the problem stemmed from waiters walking through the restaur-



Raymond Blanc: 'No master moulded me. I am self-taught, so I am not encumbered with the paraphernalia of haute cuisine'

rant garden with food. An elderly neighbour said the noise was unbearable.

"The chefs never seem to talk to each other," she said. "They have to shout and the kitchen door is always open so we can hear almost every order."

When planning permission was given in 1994 the restaurant was to charge between £5 and £9 a main course to make it affordable to local people. But the menu lists several dishes at more than £10.

Ray Baskop, former chairman of Jericho Residents Society, said the public had not got what it expected. People eating in the restaurant tended to be richer, driving from outside the area and parking in residents' parking spaces.

Le Petit Blanc is Mr Blanc's first restaurant since his other restaurant, now Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, won two Michelin stars. Celebrities packed out the launch party, with Richard Branson arriving in a rickshaw.

Mr Blanc went ahead with changes to the original planning permission without seeking the approval of the council.

He changed the frontage, installed a disabled entrance, and put in chiller units, although Oxford's planning officer said it was common for restaurants to jump the gun on such matters.

Yesterday a delegation of local residents met Mr Blanc and the restaurant manager to sort out their differences. The manager assured them that diners who book by phone would be asked to park several hundred yards away.

One resident said the management had been very pleasant but she did not feel the neighbours' concerns were a top priority for a restaurant trying to get established.

sons, his flagship restaurant, has consistently obtained two coveted Michelin stars for its owner. And Blanc has become an industry in his own right, with the obligatory "super-chef" cookery books and television programme. Blanc Blanche, the book which accompanied his 1994 television series, sold 40,000 copies in four months.

Blanc, born in France in 1949, did not start cooking until he was 25, teaching himself and refusing to follow recipes. "I did not have a master who wanted to mould me to his style. I am self-taught, so I am not encumbered with all the paraphernalia of haute cuisine."

He is passionate about

the food he cooks and the attention to detail borders on obsessiveness. He once declared: "I just want to show the beauty of the flavour and texture of grouse or lobster or salad leaf. Even when I peel a carrot, I think out how to produce the flavour better."

While Blanc's dishes remain out of the price range of many, he has made his fare more accessible, as the sole consultant for in-flight food on Virgin Atlantic Airways, and he was previously a consultant to Waitrose, the supermarket chain.

Last year he created the Raymond Blanc Scholarship, allowing the recipient to spend a year working in

Le Manoir's kitchens. The reason, he said, was "to give someone else the opportunity of doing what I did".

His current problems are not his first run-in with the authorities in Oxford. In 1992, magistrates banned him for driving for six months following a speeding offence, and the following year he was fined £5,500 for two kitchen safety offences after a kitchen accident.

The combination of a stroke and financial problems threatened the existence of Le Manoir in the early 1990s, but Mr Blanc and the restaurant recovered, and the Blancs have expanded.

No charges against wife who killed

PROSECUTORS have decided against charging a woman who stabbed her husband to death with any crime after she told police of the violence she had endured.

Susan Murphy, aged 38, suffered years of abuse at the hands of her drunken husband Robert before she knifed him in self-defence.

She stabbed him through the heart after he attacked her with a wooden chopping board at their home in Christchurch, Dorset.

An inquest yesterday in Poole, Dorset, returned a verdict of accidental death on Mr Murphy, aged 41.

Mrs Murphy was charged with murder but the charge was dropped after consultation between police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

She told officers: "If he had hit me I wouldn't be here today. I struck him with the knife. I asked him to move his feet and he just flipped. He came at me and slammed my head against the wall, knocking it against the chair."

"I managed to push him away and ran into the kitchen. He came after me, his eyes bulging and glazed. He was going to hit me with the board and had me backed into a corner. I grabbed the knife and told him stay away."

The inquest heard that after two years of marriage Mr Murphy lost his job as a plumber and developed a drink problem while also becoming increasingly violent to his wife.

On one occasion he tried to strangle her. Another time he stabbed her in the neck with a fork. On the day of the fatal stabbing, Mrs Murphy began

Lords extend asylum grace

THE House of Lords last night blew a hole in the Government's asylum legislation as bishops warned that the widest of social security benefits from most asylum seekers cast a shadow over Britain's reputation as "a compassionate and Christian country".

Peers voted by 158 votes to 135 to change a key provision in the bill so as to give asylum seekers three days grace - instead of a single day - to claim refugee status on arrival without losing access to state help while a decision is made.

The defeat came as the Government pushed through emergency amendments to the Asylum Bill by 153 to 140 votes to overturn the defeat it suffered in the Court of Appeal 11 days ago. The senior judges ruled that not only was the decision to withdraw state benefits from most asylum seekers illegal in the way it was done, but also said it should not be tolerated in a civilised society. The Appeal Court judges said refugees were left with a choice between destitution or giving up their asylum claim. More than 8,000 people have been affected since the changes were introduced in February.

Last night's defeat is expected to affect a significant number of asylum seekers because Refugee Council figures show that 80 per cent lodge a claim within two days. Many genuine refugees did not claim on the day of arrival because of ignorance, confusion and disorientation.

It was backed by three bishops and the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson. The Bishop of Lincoln told ministers that the legislation in its original form "cast a dark shadow over our claim to be a compassionate and Christian country".

After the vote Labour's home affairs spokesman, Lord McIntosh, said the effect of the defeat was to give asylum seekers three days after their arrival in Britain to lodge a claim for refugee status before losing any entitlement to housing benefit, income support, child benefit and council tax benefit while their claim was determined.

"The Government is still wrong to withdraw benefits in this way but this will make a difference to an asylum seeker who is too fearful to apply for asylum immediately. The statistics show that the person who applies after arrival is just as likely to be a genuine refugee as the person who applies at the port of entry." The Liberal Democrat spokesman, Earl Russell, said it did not make the legislation acceptable but it did "cut one bar from the window of the prison cell".

Lord Mackay of Arduengish, for the Government, insisted the measures were necessary as 34,000 people a year were receiving state benefits while their asylum claims were processed. The claims then proved to be unfounded. In future those who succeeded in getting refugee status would have their benefit payments backdated.

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4 BRITAIN

A year is a long time for the newly famous

John Ezard

TERRY VENABLES, Liz Hurley, the Duke of Devonshire, Gary Barlow, Janet Street-Porter, Piers Morgan and Chen Kai Yuan today enter the panteon of those expected to be famous for at least another year.

But they do so knowing that they will be booed out of the International Who's Who if they turn into forgotten celebrities. Unlike the British Who's Who, the smaller International reference book has a policy of deleting people from whom the limelight has faded. In this year's edition the axe has already fallen on the Tory ex-foreign minister Colin Moynihan and a load of others who have become nonentities.

And an axe is already hovering over another Conservative ex-minister, Jonathan Aitken, and the struggling Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg. "Aitken will be out if he hasn't done anything much in another two or three years and there is a Labour government. The same with Hogg," Mr Fitzwilliams said. "We remove ruthlessly every year — especially businessmen and politicians."

The chop is even being kept in reserve for two of this year's recruits, Janet Street-Porter, because of her relative inactivity since quitting Lve TV, and Piers Morgan, editor of the Daily Mirror, and currently in disgrace over the paper's anti-German Euro 96 issue.

Other new names, more secure, because their reputations or notoriety are expected to last, include Eric Cantona, Jonah Lomu, the basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, the Booker Prize winner Pat Barker, and OJ Simpson, listed as "acquitted of two charges of murder Oct. 1995; facing civil suit for wrongful death".



Fame at last, but will it last? New entrants to the International Who's Who, from top, Eric Cantona, Janet Street-Porter, Liz Hurley, and Piers Morgan



Howard defends his right to set minimum sentence for boy killers Judges 'made mistake' in Bulger case ruling

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

TWO High Court judges made a mistake when they ruled that the Home Secretary exceeded his powers in setting a minimum sentence for the boy killers of two-year-old James Bulger, the Appeal Court heard yesterday.



Robert Thompson (left) and Jon Venables... 15-year tariffs

Mr Pannick stressed the 15-year period was "not immutable" in the sense that it would necessarily be applied for ever more.

RAF pilot's 'Boy's Own' para stunt

David Fairhall Defence Correspondent

AN RAF pilot launching paratroopers from his aircraft does not normally don a parachute himself and jump out after them.

Every time one of them jumped out. What was more, they were all risking their necks in an "accelerated free-fall descent".

— every time one of them jumped out. What was more, they were all risking their necks in an "accelerated free-fall descent".

Fast sack urged for bad teachers

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

FALLING schools need a streamlined process for sacking incompetent teachers, according to a Labour adviser and former teachers' union official.

Labour adviser attacks 'slow' way of dealing with incompetence

Prof Barber, former education officer of the National Union of Teachers, said: "It would be in the interests of some of the teacher associations to advocate streamlining instead of finding themselves, as they often do, on the wrong side of the quality debate."

school as some of those Ofsted does pick up. Some schools are getting good exam results and people think they are OK but they are struggling.

Status Quo fails in bid to sue BBC

A HIGH Court judge refused to give a hearing yesterday to a move by the veteran rock band, Status Quo, to sue the BBC for not playing their records on Radio 1.

But the judge again interrupted: "You are expecting this court to devote two or three days of precious time to an issue which will produce no benefit to your clients. The BBC has stated that no such policy ever applied and if it did it will not apply for the future."

He said that the BBC did not play the re-issues of Beatles hits on Radio 1 even though they went to the top of the charts.

Even though the economy has started to grow again (albeit slowly) in the last three years, it has not prevented this adverse employment situation continuing and we can no longer take it for granted we will eventually see a more benign scenario in which younger and older workers share in a plentiful supply of new jobs," the report warns.

Do you care? The Guardian Jerwood Award was founded to recognise achievements of excellence in the charities field...

Two Britons die in air crash

TWO Britons have been killed in a helicopter crash in a remote area of Florida, officials said last night.

The crash is being treated as an accident. Police Lieutenant Gary Brenner said Mr Timmins, who lived in the US, was flying Mr Palfrey to a Florida airport, apparently for a flight back to England.

Healthier economy offers no cheer for older workers

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

JOB prospects for older workers have worsened despite the upturn in the economy, according to a report today for the Carnegie programme on "third-age" people, aged 50-74.

director of the Carnegie programme said the report says Britain will need 1.4 million new jobs over the next 10 years merely to keep pace with the projected rise in the working population.

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Outbreaks of dissent conceal inner discipline as Labour paper looms

Michael White and Rebecca Smithers

TELEPHONE callers to the Gwent home of the Labour MP Paul Flynn on Sunday may have overheard his wife, Samantha, shout out "He's an awkward bugger", by way of explaining her husband's protest letter to Tony Blair.

At dawn yesterday the MP for Newport West was at it again. "We are producing documents, like the one on pensions on Friday, that are timid and anaemic," he protested on the airwaves. But Mr Flynn's outspoken comments against "autocratic" leadership make him one of an increasingly rare breed.

Anyone who doubts the Prussian thrust of new Labour discipline need only have heard Ron Davies, shadow Welsh secretary, doing his duty over the new devolution policy on BBC Radio 4's World at One yesterday.

It cannot have been an easy interview for the MP for Caerphilly, but he did not put a foot wrong. At Westminster, as well as among grassroots activists, the disciplined will to win the general election is strong in Labour ranks.

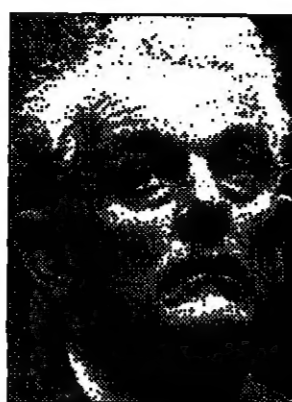
He denied a "complete fabrication" Mr Flynn's claim that he had been told he must accept Mr Blair's devolution U-turn or resign. "I had a very lengthy, a very cordial conversation with Tony Blair," said Mr Davies. "It was my decision to agree I should make a statement calling for a referendum."

All of which has made some

The awkward squad unhappy at toeing Blair's line



PAUL FLYNN: Aged 61, MP for Newport West since 1987. Has orthodox views on nuclear weapons and medical uses of illegal drugs but is respected by colleagues for his independence of mind. After last week's parliamentary Labour Party meeting, he wrote to Tony Blair attacking new Labour's "hypocrisy and opportunism" in watering down key areas of policy.



TAM DALYELL: Aged 65, MP for West Lothian, now Edinburgh, since 1962. Has waged 20-year campaign against ill-conceived devolution plans and attacked last week's pre-legislative referendum plan as "vacuous". Blunt-speaking Old Etonian's other campaigns have included Lockerbie bomb and Belgrano sinking. Until now has avoided criticising Tony Blair personally.



DIANE ABBOTT: Aged 42, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987. First black woman MP and left-wing Campaign group member has frequently landed herself in hot water with Labour leadership, particularly since election to national executive committee. Most recently she criticised "curfew plans" for children proposed by shadow home secretary, Jack Straw.



ALAN SIMPSON: Aged 47, MP for Nottingham South since 1992. Cited within Labour's office as backbencher who most irks Tony Blair. Leading Eurosceptic and secretary of Campaign group threatens attempts to retain unity over Europe, and has also opposed Labour "hypocrisy" over education — in particular, Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective school.

1970s — and how MPs ought to be better vetted for competence as well as loyalty.

Where the Sawyer paper collided with The Road show was in crystallising the sense of unease of many MPs. They respect and admire Blair's will to win but fear the lack of consultation, the ruthless policy switches, the imposition of policies which would once have been anathema.

"They are not Pavlovian dogs. There is too much macho stuff coming out of the leader's office," said left-winger Kevin McNamara.

Yesterday the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, was drafted into the launch of Labour's health policy document to kill off claims that the dissent was a serious threat to Mr Blair's leadership.

Mr Brown said Mr Flynn's views were "not representative" of those of the wider party.

The executive of the cross-party Scottish Constitutional Convention yesterday agreed to disagree on the issue of a devolution referendum in Scotland's partner in the eight-year-old convention — attacked Tory and Scottish National Party disdain for the proposed Edinburgh legislature rather than Labour's policy reversal.

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The Sawyer paper concerns future relations between a Labour government and the party at large. How the NEC should avoid falling out with the cabinet — as it did in the

Welsh Lib Dem leader tells of workload strain on his family

Michael White Political Editor

LIBERAL Democrats in the Welsh stronghold of Montgomery last night began their search for a candidate to succeed Alex Carlile, after their MP announced he would stand down at the coming election to help care for his teenage daughter.

At an emotional, sometimes humorous, Westminster press conference, Mr Carlile, aged 48, and his wife, Frances, made clear that the barrister MP had decided to abandon his political career — as home affairs spokesman and leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats — because of the additional strain placed on family life by his workload.

The couple revealed that Ruth, aged 15, youngest of their three daughters, has an acute depressive illness and has become a psychiatric inpatient. "It is clear to me that I can play an important part in Ruth's eventual recovery, but only if I am more a part of Ruth's life than my activities as an MP have enabled me to be," Mr Carlile said.

Mrs Carlile said: "This has been a stressful and difficult decision for Alex. He is a person of strong loyalties — to his constituents, to his party and to his family. It has taken us all some time to adjust to the extremely slow pace of

recovery from mental illness and the time needed to help Ruth. He just wants to be there for her."

Mr Carlile said some MPs' children "suffer through" the pressures of political life and long parental absences. Others did not. "Ruth and I are very close," he said, yet she had often been asleep when he got home from the Commons during his 13 years as a member — and still asleep when he left for work next day. He will now resume his career at the Bar.

He predicted that the new Lib Dem candidate would not only hold his constituency — "he might be a bit more interesting than me and get a bigger majority" — but would see the party gain two or three more Welsh seats at the election, including Conwy.

Apart from a brief interlude, Montgomery has been Liberal for a century or more. Mr Carlile's majority, 5,208, is 17 per cent. Yesterday his local chairman, Daniel Munnford of Welshpool, said he had been a "fantastic MP" whose wit and intelligence would be sorely missed.

The party leader, Paddy Ashdown, praised Mr Carlile's courage both in his decision and in tackling difficult issues in the Commons.

He also had a lawyer's ask for abuse, said Mr Ashdown. "He never takes offence after he's abused you."



Alex Carlile, who will quit politics at the election to help care for his daughter, with his wife Frances yesterday

Harman promises action on patient appointments

Personalised system aimed at stemming flight from NHS

David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent

LABOUR yesterday repackaged its health policy to appeal directly to middle-class voters with a promise to introduce a personalised appointment system for hospitals and community health services.

Harriet Harman, shadow health secretary, acknowledged that the idea could be

criticised as of relatively low priority, but insisted it was essential to stem the flow of people into private health care.

"As the Tories force patients into the private sector, the NHS becomes less comprehensive in its population coverage," Ms Harman said as she gave some further details of Labour's plans for the NHS in the run-up to the launch on Thursday of the party's draft manifesto document. "As it becomes less comprehensive, it

loses broader public support as taxpayers become reluctant to pay for services they no longer get. That trend must be stopped in its tracks and reversed."

Under Labour's commitment, patients would get a choice of when they were treated. Although details are scanty, the party is citing systems at the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals' gynaecology unit and the Royal Liverpool University hospital's breast cancer clinic.

In the latter case, GPs are able to book out-patient appointments direct with consultants and 95 per cent of patients are said to receive treat-

results the same day, Henry McLeish, shadow health minister, said Labour would give the health service a new lease of life as a public service responsive to people's changing expectations. "Patients want the NHS to fit in with their lives, rather than having to fit their lives around the NHS."

Ms Harman said: "If it is said that this is the wrong priority, and that might be the case, the answer is that people's number one concern is how the NHS meets their needs — and that is why people go private."

Labour yesterday also promised to restore GPs' free-

dom to refer patients to any hospital provider of their choice, saving the £22 million annual cost of the existing system of "extra-contractual referrals", and said it would find another £80 million a year for patient care by ordering further cuts in bureaucracy.

All trusts and health authorities would be ordered to cut management costs to "at least the current English average". An £80 million saving would represent about 3 per cent in cash terms and would be used for services and staff.

The government contain NHS expenditure?

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Services Management, expressed alarm at what she called the "repeated attack" on NHS managers and questioned the apparent plan to apply a single yardstick to trusts of all sizes and kinds.

Labour had still failed to provide a real blueprint for the running of the NHS, Ms Caines said. "If the system of extra-contractual referrals is to be ended, and patients are to have more freedom of choice, how will providers be paid for services and how will the government contain NHS expenditure?"

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Whitehall recruiting change

MOVES to inject a new culture into Whitehall, with more accountants and economists and fewer arts graduates, were announced yesterday, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

Plans disclosed in a white paper include reserving a third of all "fast stream" recruits — the mandarins of the future — for graduates with science and engineering degrees.

The Government also plans to recruit many more middle managers from outside the Civil Service, and to challenge the traditional assumption that recruits join for life.

It is to the Duchy's bankers that the Prince has gone, cap in hand, for a cool £20m loan. The time has come to throw money at a problem — and that problem is Princess Diana.

Ruaridh Nicoll

G2 cover story

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: Environment questions. PM's questions. Broadcasting Bill, report. Social Security (Disability Living Allowance and Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations.

House of Lords: Asylum and Immigration Bill, and of third reading debate. Railway Heritage Bill, committee. Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, third reading. Armed Forces Bill, report. Energy Conservation Bill, committee. Child Benefit, Child Support and Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations. Jobseekers Allowance (Pilot Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations. Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill, Commons amendments. Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Bill, committee. Defamation Bill, Commons amendments.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Mostar voters split along ethnic divide

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

PROVISIONAL election results from Mostar yesterday showed the vote largely split between Muslim and Croat nationalists in the divided Bosnian town...

where Croat crime syndicates have taken over most of their abandoned factories...

Police monitors sent by the Western European Union have also been trying to set up a multi-ethnic city police force...

According to unofficial returns published by Mostar's joint electoral committee...

Julian Borger in Pale

THE SERB Democratic Party (SDS), which controls the Serb-held half of Bosnia, was huddled behind closed doors yesterday...

There could be no clearer demonstration of how the international community's failure to lever the Bosnian Serb leader out of power...

Up to now, you've been hearing different things from Pale and Banja Luka...

Mr Karadzic's flexing of political muscle also exposed Nato's limitations...

A brief flowering of independent thinking in Banja Luka in May has since been stifled...

Claims over the weekend by the international community's high representative, Carl Bildt...

Mr Bildt's deputy, Michael Steiner, issued a challenge to his own putative employers...

Few of Nato's 60,000 peacekeepers would recognise the Bosnian Serb leader if he shook them by the hand

zic if they meet them in the normal course of their duties. But there was little sign of I-For in the mountain village yesterday...

may have sown confusion in Bosnian Serb ranks...

International cohesion is further undermined by persistent off-the-record sniping between Nato and Mr Bildt's office...

rejoice from Stockholm yesterday evening — but insisted that "whatever is done has the full support of the international community"

There is a danger of going through 'Unprofor-isation' again, said a veteran UN aid officer...

Officials in the high representative's office were fuming yesterday over anonymous

remarks to the press by Nato officers ridiculing Mr Bildt's apparent gaffe...

Both Nato officers and Mr Bildt's aides are hopeful that the campaign to get rid of Mr Karadzic will be given fresh impetus...

International cohesion is further undermined by persistent off-the-record sniping between Nato and Mr Bildt's office...

Yeltsin leans on daughter's arm

James Meek in Moscow

WHEN rumours about Boris Yeltsin's state of health began to spread last week...

Ms Dyachenko claims that Mr Yeltsin's all-male entourage tried to marginalise her role...

Most observers expect Ms Dyachenko to return to housewifely motherhood after the election...

Ms Dyachenko says her father invited her to join his re-election campaign at the end of February...

By June she was ready to play a decisive part in the purge of his hardline associates...

With unwitting prescience, General Korzhakov foresaw his own downfall in an amiable tribute to Ms Dyachenko in Opyonyok

magazine in April. "There is a certain distance between the president and his aides, even with the closest advisers," he said.

The idea of making government a family business seems unlikely to catch on

his authority in a reshaped political landscape, and he may need people he can trust in the face of the assertive General Alexander Lebed.

Although the Communist-nationalist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, has two women on his campaign team...

The idea of making government a family business, in the Asian fashion, seems unlikely to catch on in Russia...

Asked recently what she would think about her grandchildren going into politics, Mr Yeltsin's wife Naina recoiled.

Leader comment, page 8

Briton asked to help inquiry

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE Belgian police have asked the European Commission to lift the diplomatic immunity of a British former senior official...

French official, René Guth, who has also been involved in running the unit.

Both men still work in the Commission. It is understood that Mr von Moltke has already been questioned informally by the police.

Police involvement in Commission affairs is relatively unusual: this is thought to be only the fourth time that it has been asked to lift the diplomatic immunity enjoyed by senior officials.

The request is part of an investigation begun more than a year ago into the way the tourism unit was run in the early 1990s...

In February Michael Emerson, a former EU ambassador to Russia, left under a cloud after being accused of a conflict of interest...

The police investigation is the second involving a senior Briton in the Commission this year.

Mr Mayhew is a former acting director of the Commission's tourism unit, which is embroiled in a bribery and corruption scandal...

According to the lawsuit filed against him at LA Superior Court, Travolta resented the way that the director was trying to, like, direct him.



Hillary Clinton waves to a crowd of several thousand people in Bucharest's Revolution Square yesterday after pledging support for Romania's fledgling democracy...

Minister warns Kohl not to cut defence budget

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY'S defence minister is warning that a diet of budget-cutting to get the country lean enough for the single European currency could jeopardise European defence projects...

Volker Rühe is mounting a strong rearguard action aimed at exempting the defence budget from the tough austerity drive led by the finance minister, Theo Waigel.

the budgetary and debt tests next year. "Everyone must make a contribution to the savings package," Mr Waigel said yesterday in Munich.

In a letter to the chancellor, Mr Rühe said the defence cuts demanded by Mr Waigel would mean the armed forces would need to shrink, that the system of conscription valued by Mr Kohl could be imperilled...

Mr Waigel is now drafting next year's budget, a crucial exercise since next year's economic data will be used to decide which countries qualify for the common European currency...

Despite the expansion of the country's territory after unification in 1990 and the absorption of the East German military, the defence budget has shrunk by around 10 billion marks (\$4.3 billion) over that period to \$20.3 billion this year.

News in brief

Russia tests missiles

Ballistic missiles were fired by three Russian nuclear submarines in the Sea of Okhotsk in the Far East in an unprecedented naval exercise...

Tapie sentenced

A French court gave the bankrupt businessman and former cabinet minister Bernard Tapie a two-year suspended jail sentence yesterday for fraud.

Road rage deaths

Two people were killed and 12 injured when an argument between two motorists in Akkar, Lebanon, was decided with gunfire.

Chernobyl leak

A small radiation leak occurred in one of two working reactors at Chernobyl power station...

Iraq plan opposed

Iraq's efforts to resume oil exports to buy food and medicine ran into trouble yesterday when the US said it opposes Baghdad's plan for distributing goods bought with the profits.

Death sentences

A special court yesterday sentenced three Bahraini men to death for a fire bomb attack that killed seven Bangladeshis in a restaurant...

Sex tourism case

Dutch legal authorities have been asked by the Philippines to prosecute a Dutch man accused of sex offences committed in the Philippines...

'Mobster' arrest

A lawyer considered to be one of the brains behind organised crime in Calabria, Italy, was arrested yesterday...

Journalist beaten

A journalist who accused the Egyptian interior minister's sons of corruption, Magdi Hussein, was beaten yesterday by seven men he claimed were sent by the government as a warning.

Peace gesture

Greek Cypriot taxi drivers yesterday freed pigeons as symbols of peace on the 'Green Line' dividing the south from the Turkish Cypriot north.

Heroin seizure

Italian police in Naples yesterday seized 84 kilograms of heroin — worth \$300 million — and arrested a German accused of seeking to sell it to local mobsters.

Booze banned

The president of the Islamic Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean has banned imports of alcohol except by diplomats or to be sold in hotels to foreigners.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



Unofficial mass ... More than 1,000 youths take the Chinese Communist Party oath in an induction ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on the party's 75th anniversary yesterday. A stern anniversary warning was issued to wayward cadres to pay more attention to socialist politics and to stay away from corruption, self-interest and crime

Boarding of plane prompts fears about freedom of travel in and out of Hong Kong after hand-over

Chinese police halt petition mission

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

A GROUP of pro-democracy politicians flew home to Hong Kong yesterday after Chinese police boarded their plane in Beijing, confiscated travel documents, and barred them from disembarking to deliver a 60,000-signature petition calling on China to abolish the colony's elected legislature.

comes a "special administrative region". The saga dominated radio and television news broadcasts in Hong Kong throughout the day, overshadowing a formal change of name by the now no-longer-Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and the broadcast of a flamboyant one-year-to-go variety show in Beijing.

Most ethnic Chinese living in Hong Kong normally have the right to visa-free travel to the mainland. China has denied the existence of any blacklist.

petition but Beijing has steadfastly rejected all criticism of its plans to uproot reforms introduced, without its consent, by the governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten.

room for "any act to subvert the government, split the nation and the country". A Chinese-drafted constitution for the territory after 1997, the Basic Law, enshrines a host of freedoms but also includes Article 23, a controversial catch-all ban on "subversion".

The Democratic Party leader, Martin Lee, at the airport to welcome the group back to Beijing, said: "I am compelled to conclude that the Chinese leaders are not interested to hear from Hong Kong people anything other than what they want to hear. In other words, if they want to hear your views you are welcome, if they don't, you are rejected."

White House turns caped crusader to beat Hollywood 'superheroes'

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

IN WHAT could be an uneven contest, the Clinton administration has picked a fight with Mighty Morphin Power Rangers — television's cartoon superheroes idolised by children and loathed by parents the world over.

ing applause, and some hisses, from the Variety ShowBiz Expo, the industry's annual trade fair — said the Power Rangers were "just not good for children".

continues to cosy up to Hollywood's biggest stars, including Steven Spielberg, David Geffen, Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks and Sharon Stone, who are all generous beneficiaries.

than to the Democrats. The shift is partly a punishment for Mr Clinton's failure in 1994 — during the final negotiations of the Gatt trade deal — to guarantee unlimited access for US films to the European market.

Vietnam reform comes at price

Communist leaders are reluctant to loosen their grip, reports Nick Cumming-Bruce at the final day of the Hanoi congress

VIETNAM'S Communist leaders have announced that they will push ahead with reforms aimed at creating a market economy over the next few years but must step up security to preserve their grip on power, says Nick Cumming-Bruce.

sweeping powers claimed for the standing committee. To applause from other delegates, southern Tran Trong Tan argued that the committee's powers were excessive and "undemocratic".

Dominicans give narrow victory to Balaguer's man

Phil Gannon in Latin America

LATIN AMERICA'S most durable politician, President Joaquín Balaguer of the Dominican Republic, has once again outsmarted his opponents. In a close-fought run-off election his chosen successor, Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), defeated the social democrat José Francisco Peña Gómez, who was making his third presidential bid.

In his grasp: Fernández salutes his election victory

Barbados considers ending its 370-year link with the Crown

Eric Maurice in Bridgetown

BARBADOS, regarded as one of the most English of the Caribbean islands, is reconsidering its links with the monarchy. Today a 10-member constitutional commission begins a year-long review of the constitution's allocation of powers.

sugar plantations and imported African slaves whose descendants form the majority of the 264,000 population. The colony became an independent member of the Commonwealth in 1966.

News in brief

Mongolia votes to end an era

MONGOLIA got a change of government yesterday for the first time in 75 years when the Democratic Union coalition won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections, topping the former communists. The Democrats captured 48 of the 76 seats in the Great Khural, or parliament, up from six in 1992, surprising diplomats and the opposition itself.

Suu Kyi's marriage 'example'

BURMESE official media warned yesterday that the pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was setting an example for other women to follow her and marry foreign men. "She should try to abandon politics and co-operate in serving the people by using what she has studied," said the commentary in state-run newspapers.

Union challenges Netanyahu

ISRAELI hospitals, airports and state-run radio stations shut down for an hour yesterday in protest at the new Prime Minister's privatisation plans. The strike by 400,000 workers, backed by the Histadrut trade union, indicated the strong opposition to Benjamin Netanyahu's economic measures.

Spain still ready to woo ETA

SPAIN said yesterday it would continue its conciliatory moves towards jailed ETA rebels despite a decision by the Basque separatist guerrillas not to prolong a one-week truce.

Aborigines fight euthanasia

SCORES of aborigines travelled from outback camps to pack Darwin's Supreme Court yesterday for the opening hearing of the legal challenge to the Northern Territory's law euthanasia law.

Party craze for cats' drug

A VETERINARY anaesthetic used on dogs and cats has become a popular drug among Swedish youth at rave parties and techno nightclubs, the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported yesterday.

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| India | £7.29 | £12.70 | 43% |
| Canada | £1.65 | £3.80 | 57% |
| Australia | £2.23 | £5.90 | 62% |
| South Africa | £4.70 | £8.20 | 43% |
| Germany/France | £2.11 | £2.96 | 29% |
| Nigeria | £7.05 | £11.05 | 35% |
| Hong Kong | £4.11 | £7.30 | 44% |
| Pakistan | £9.16 | £12.60 | 27% |

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Don't push Labour too far

Tony Blair is nearing the limits of tolerance

WITHOUT party unity there will be no Labour election victory. Without that victory there will be no Labour government. That government is the only realistic alternative to the Conservatives. Does it therefore follow that in the cause of achieving a Labour government, no dissent against the party leadership can be tolerated...

In some respects it is the modesty of recent revolts that is striking, not their strength. There is, however, little doubt that very many more in the party have held their tongues rather than add to Mr Blair's problems. To dismiss all the outbursts merely as disloyalty would be absurd. In the main, they reflect genuine disagreement about substantive matters of policy as well as about leadership style.

Avoid General Lebed at all costs

Russia should start praying for Boris Yeltsin's health

BORIS YELTSIN has urged the Russian voters not to allow their "grievances and tiredness" to sway tomorrow's vote. But what if Boris himself is too tired? It may only be a sore throat, or the fatigue of a two-stage campaign, but Mr Yeltsin's backers must now be on their knees and praying very hard...

created - no names, but only one strong candidate. Wielding his sword, he has already swept off the scene various rivals in the president's camp. His role as blunt military man, gruff voice and all, has attracted quite a lot of support outside Russia among those desperate to interpret what is happening - as long as Boris stays - in a favourable light.

An unscientific solution

Removing government funding will not help science

IF Terence Kealey did not exist, ministers would have to invent him: a scientist who believes governments should not fund basic science. After the laissez faire economist, meet the laissez faire scientist. Moreover, as readers of our Online pages will know, a scientist who can write. His article last month collected some "hear, hears" in this column: his wish to see scientists better paid, his dismay over the huge differential between city dealers and researchers, and his outrage over the fact that Cambridge science professors, even those who are Fellows of the Royal Society, earn only £37,500.

government support in the last century. Undoubtedly ingenious people centuries ago invented technology - steam-powder and telescopes - without understanding the physics of the first or recognising the scientific potential of the second. Scientists could just catch up in those days. The explanation came after the invention of steampower - Galileo showed how a fun instrument at fairsgrounds could transform the laws of the universe by looking at the moon.



Letters to the Editor

Islington rule, not OK

TONY BLAIR'S imposition of a referendum on his Scottish party (Letters June 28) was more indicative of new Labour than the issue of the referendum itself. It was the way it was done that caused the real damage.

section of the public. The idea that the voters of the Home Counties are deciding which party to support on the basis of Tony Blair's approach to the Scottish parliament is absurd. They are deciding their vote on the Tory record and on what Labour will do in the areas of concern to them - the economy, jobs, health, education and crime chief among them.

More nominations for the war crimes tribunal show

I CANNOT understand how anybody who believes in the peace process in Bosnia can imagine that a one-sided action by I-For against Karadzic and Miladic will increase the chance of the present armed truce lasting beyond the end of the year (A question of commitment July 1).

No rave review

SOUTH Yorkshire Police sages out of its way to determine the extent of inappropriate behaviour amongst its employees (Police in dock on sex harassment June 28). It finds that seven out of eight people are content and 94 per cent are happy at their work.

Golden rules for golden goals

IT IS EASY to see why the Euro 96 golden goal system fails in every respect. It could be successfully adapted as follows: the first goal in any knock-out game should be golden, so that if there is a draw at full or extra time, then the first goal wins.



A Country Diary

SOMERSET: A number of threads, not all of them purely nostalgic, draw us back to the old, grey stone town of Bruton. Although not nowadays a homecoming, the journey, winding a narrow way between hedges and past rounded green hillsides to the point where, down in a hollow, the jumbled roofscape, ruined churches appear, always feels like a pleasurable small adventure.

The house that Richard built

IN PUTTING the case for more creative architecture (Letters July 1), Sir Richard Rogers exposes his own weakness. Where is it written that a building must be "truly creative" and, anyway, what does this mean? Why should an opera house be "a major work of art"? Does he forget that his fellow architects once described high-rise council flats and shoe-box offices in such terms?

Golden rules for golden goals

PROPOSE a system of soccer scoring that would almost avoid extra time being necessary. If the scoring was changed to a rugby-type model, one goal would no longer equal one point. For example, if a goal equaled four points, hitting the post one point, a corner half a point, and perhaps each yellow card and red card counting as half and one point taken away, the negative situations seen in Euro 96 would not arise.

JOHN VALLINS

Undoubtedly science thrived without

60 Brockesby Walk, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3LZ

17 Friar's Mews, London W2 4NX

55 Manor Lane, London SE13

22 Mackintosh Road, London NW3 2LT

268/270 Levenside Hill, London SW11 1LJ

38 Kingsfold Drive, Manchester M20 6DX

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268/270 Levenside Hill, London SW11 1LJ

38 Kingsfold Drive, Manchester M20 6DX

22 Mackintosh Road, London NW3 2LT

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12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

New foreign-owned mines lead to regeneration and conflict for the host nations

Zimbabwe awards itself platinum pass to prosperity

Michael Prest in Harare

ZIMBABWE is about to bring into production one of the world's biggest platinum mines, giving the country's struggling economy a shot in the arm and asserting its independence from the South African mining houses which have long dominated the region.

The mine, named Hartley platinum, is expected to start producing early next year and will quickly become Zimbabwe's biggest export revenue earner. With the start of a second round of economic liberalisation, the government and local businessmen hope that the mining development will prove that Zimbabwe is safe for foreign investors.

Hartley is a joint venture between two Australian mining companies, BHP, which has 67 per cent of the project, and Delta Gold. The partners expect to spend £170 million bringing the mine into production: this will be the biggest single project in the country since independence in 1980.

Although BHP is the senior partner and has borne the development costs so far, Hartley is a testament to the quiet persistence of Peter Vanderpooy, an Australian of South African origin. He has overcome suspicion of foreign investors, conventional wisdom that the deposit is impossible to work, and denigration by South African rivals, to come within an ace of seeing his dream realised.

The mine is expected to produce 180,000 ounces of platinum, 110,000 ounces of palladium and 11,500 ounces of rhodium a year. These rare platinum group metals have become increasingly valuable

over the past 20 years because they are the crucial ingredients in exhaust catalysts.

Output will be refined in Britain by Johnson Matthey and Inco, and will be welcomed by industrial consumers who feel vulnerable to demands from the small group of mainly South African and Russian producers.

Production on this scale will make Hartley the biggest platinum mine outside South Africa and Russia. The mine's reserves, of 166 million tonnes of ore containing 14 billion ounces of platinum, are expected to last at least 100 years.

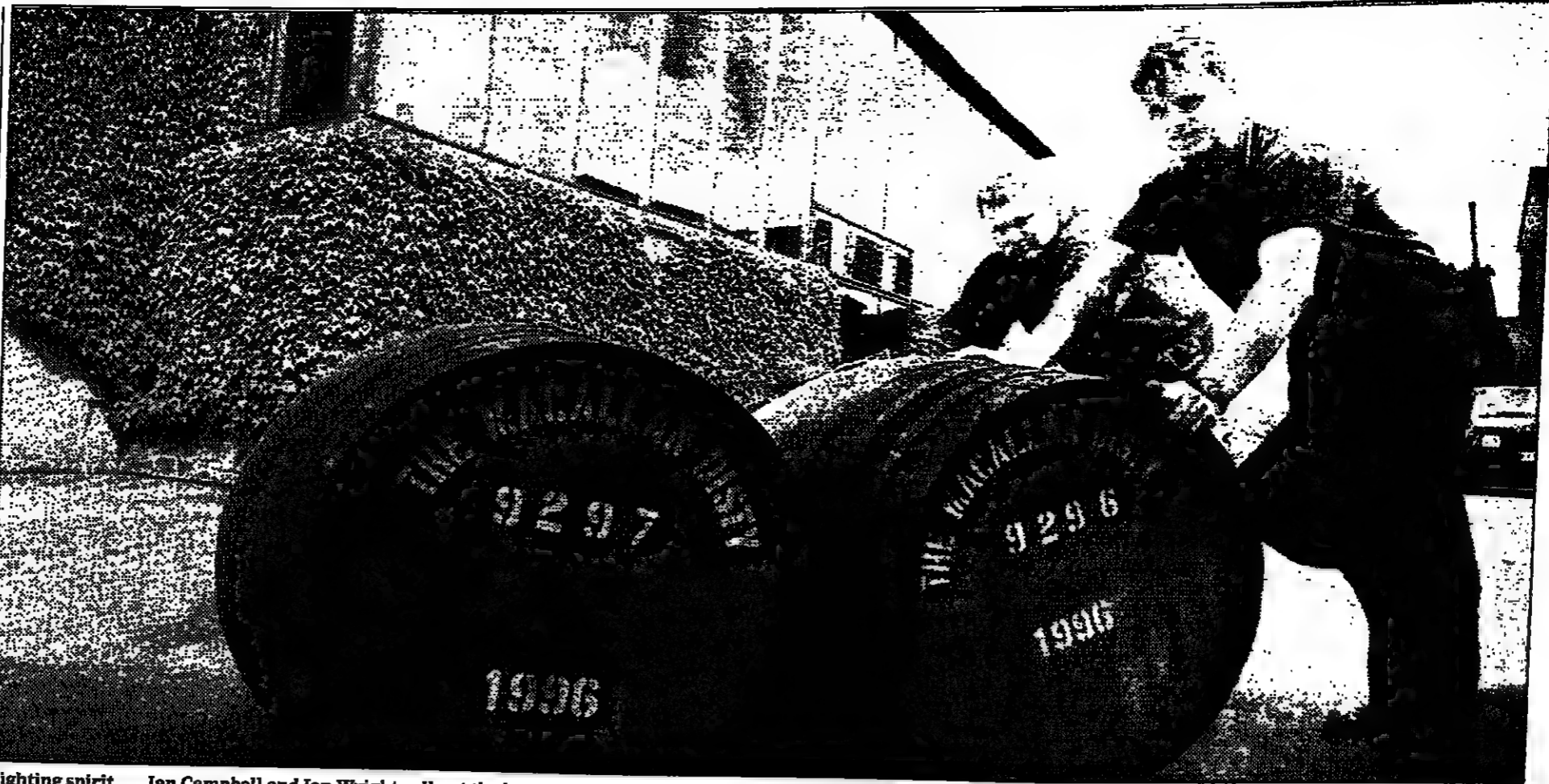
Hartley will employ 2,700 people, of whom only a handful will be expatriates. The continued prominence of whites and expatriates in Zimbabwe's economy is a sensitive issue for the government, and Hartley is laying much emphasis on training and employing local people.

Lying in bushland about 50 miles east of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, the mine will employ workers from villages whose homes are being built for them.

When production reaches expected levels, Hartley will contribute 40 per cent of Zimbabwe's export earnings from gold, 20 per cent of all mining export earnings, and 8 per cent of total export revenues. Palethorpe believes that the mine's cost will be among the lowest for platinum mines throughout the world.

The prospect of stiff competition is viewed with mixed feelings in South Africa, long the dominant force in platinum-related production.

The country's most important platinum mines, Impals and Rustenburg, although still big producers, are suffering increasingly from falling grades and rising costs.



Fighting spirit... Ian Campbell and Ian Wright roll out the barrels from Macallan's still room, and (below) managing director Willie Phillips awaits his fate. PHOTOGRAPHS: IAN JOLLY

Whisky clan under siege

Japanese firm in joint bid for single-malt brand. Ian King reports

THE Scotch whisky industry was poised for a shake-up yesterday after Highland Distilleries, best known for its Famous Grouse brand, announced plans with Suntory, the Japanese whisky firm, to take control of Macallan-Glenlivet, owner of The Macallan, one of Scotland's best-loved single-malt whiskies.

Highland and Suntory have made a bid for the 49 per cent of Macallan they do not already own, valuing the company at £180 million.

A joint venture company, HS Distillers, would produce, market and distribute The Macallan, which holds third place in the single-malt market.

In addition, Highland which bought its 26 per cent stake in Macallan from the French group Remy Cointreau six months ago — would relocate its High Malt distilling operation from

Glasgow to Macallan's Speyside premises, resulting in undisclosed number of job losses. Jobs would also go at Macallan's head office.

Brian Ivory, Highland's chief executive, said the deal would give Highland "wonderful coverage of Scotland's distilling areas", and pledged to increase The Macallan's sales "substantially".

He added: "We believe this deal is good for Speyside, good for the Scotch whisky industry and good for Scotland."

Mr Ivory confirmed that Suntory, which has owned a 25 per cent stake in Macallan since 1986, had rejected an offer from Highland to buy its shares.

The joint bid was received with thinly disguised fury by Macallan. Advice to shareholders will be issued after a board meeting today.

In particular, Macallan is angry that the deal was pitched at 152 1/2 p a share, con-

siderably lower than yesterday's market opening price. Macallan-Glenlivet shares closed down 29p at 158p last night, while Highland shares closed 3p higher, at 374p.

Macallan-Glenlivet is one of Scotland's oldest and most respected whisky producers. Established in 1824, the company was listed on the Stock Exchange in 1968, and launched The Macallan in 1980 — the same year that Alan Shiach, the group's current chairman, took office.

Mr Shiach, who is great-grandson of the company's founder, is one of two families — the other is the Harbisons — which still control an estimated 20 per cent of Macallan-Glenlivet shares.

However, City analysts said that, with Suntory and Highland already having a 51 per cent combined shareholding, the families would find it almost impossible to fight off the assault.



Australian aboriginals go along with RTZ's zinc extraction plan

Dan Atkinson

MINERALS company RTZ is to push ahead with plans for the world's largest zinc mine after representatives of Australian aboriginals voted narrowly in favour of a £30 million compensation package.

Their approval came shortly before RTZ's deadline of midnight on Sunday, after which the mine was threatening to abandon the £500 million investment.

Tortuous negotiations between the aboriginals of northern Queensland and RTZ's Australian sister, CRA, have been under way for months; Sunday's vote means that discussions will move on to land rights and other technical matters, which must be resolved by RTZ's next deadline, September 30.

At stake is the Century Zinc project for a mine in the Gulf of Carpentaria region, capable of producing half a million tons of zinc a year, the equivalent of 8 per cent of world production. RTZ-CRA has al-

ready spent £100 million and is prepared to invest five times that amount.

Tied in with the Century scheme is the future of the Budel zinc smelter in Holland, which has contracted to take half the Century output. Should RTZ's zinc fail to arrive before June 1998, the Dutch government has said the smelter will have to close.

RTZ has offered the Gulf aboriginals a £30 million package of training, business aid and employment measures. Yesterday it said it had written "as wide spread informal advice" that "the project has broad support from the region's communities".

The United Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation was reported to have voted by 12 to 11 in favour of the project, although dissenters claimed that it had been rejected by 15 to five.

Regional commissioner Terry O'Shane said that if another vote had to be held, an independent observer would be needed to ensure that everything is above board.

Eggar plans to accelerate North Sea oil exploration

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

OIL companies will be told by the Government to develop North Sea exploration sites or surrender their rights to them, energy minister Tim Eggar said yesterday.

He outlined to a conference of industry leaders how the Government planned to accelerate the pace of exploration.

Oil companies would be put under pressure to develop sites or give them up.

"If a company wants new acreage, it is reasonable to expect it to explore, develop or relinquish its existing acreage," Mr Eggar said.

The Government also intended to review licences more rigorously.

The proposed changes would mean that licences in so-called mature areas of the UK continental shelf were of shorter duration — three to six years — and awarded on the basis of competitive bids, introducing a cash element into the system and allowing smaller companies access.

Mr Eggar said he wanted a licensing system which encouraged "rapid and innova-

tive" exploration in the North Sea.

The proposed licensing changes were prompted by a Department of Trade and Industry review of 115 "fallow blocks" which were allocated in previous licensing rounds but had remained unexplored or undeveloped.

Mr Eggar said he was considering awarding licences for 20 to 30 blocks of the North Sea on the basis of competitive bids, which could include upfront payments, enhanced licence fees or royalty payments.

He said 12 months' notice of the round would be given, with the aim of closing it in autumn 1997. Similar annual rounds would follow.

"This is not a Treasury-determined solution but a view I take that in mature acreage we need to increase turnover and availability of areas for seismic surveys and drilling," Mr Eggar said.

The changes would not affect the system used to allocate exploration and production rights in new or frontier areas such as the deeper waters of the Atlantic which are due to be allocated in the next round of licensing.

S&N takes courage from good year

Outlook Ian King

WHEN Scottish & Newcastle bought Court Square in Foster's last summer for £435 million, becoming Britain's biggest brewer, sceptics questioned the wisdom of the deal.

Concerned at competition in the sector, critics said any merger benefits would be swamped by the pressure from rivals.

But chief executive Brian Stewart yesterday pointed to a 16 per cent jump in full year pre-tax profits to £308.2 million in vindication.

The figure takes account of interest payments but not the £150 million written off in reorganisation costs. Courage contributed nearly £37 million to profits in just 37 weeks — considerably ahead of expectations.

The acquisition has not been painless. January saw the closure announced of Nottingham's Home brewery and the Webster's brewery in Halifax, with the loss of 1,600 jobs, while nine depots have also been closed.

The number of pubs managed by S&N has fallen from 1,842 to 1,827 during the year, while the group has let its number of tenancies fall from 1,002 to 781.

Mr Stewart rebuffed any suggestion that S&N is turning its back on the pubs trade, and pointed out that this apparent retrenchment has been forced on the company

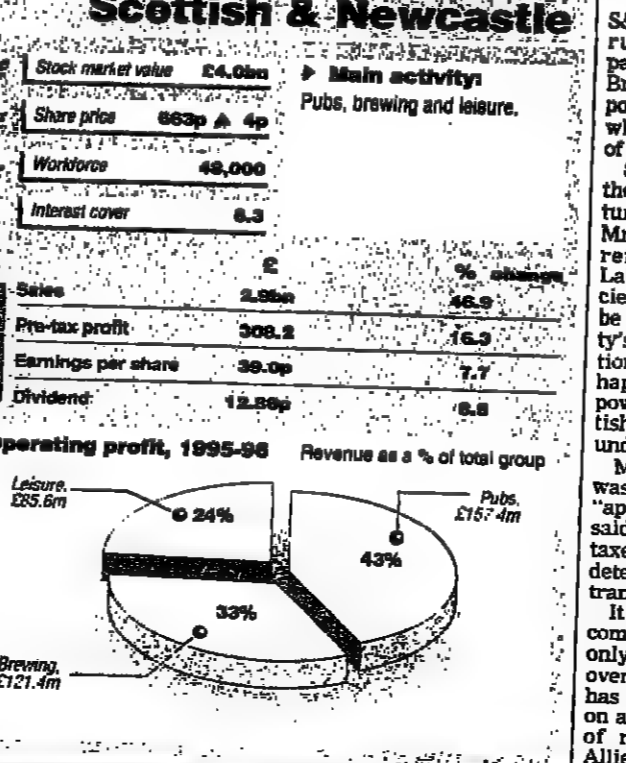
by the competition authorities, after the purchases of the Chief & Brewer chain and Courage.

buoyed by a sharp rise in profits at pubs it upgraded last year — at a cost of £28 million — S&N plans to continue its pub investment programme, in particular at Chief & Brewer. Many of the pubs have been rebranded to Red and Farrot', aimed at twenty and thirtysomethings

and "Homespread", aimed at families.

That leaves leisure, where critics say S&N is too small, and where the group should either expand or sell — a criticism made pertinent by the fact that profits at Fontina's and Center Parks have fallen.

Here again, S&N remains optimistic, claiming that consumer demand is reviving and that the dip in profits at Center Parks was mainly due



News in brief

BTR sells diesel division for £80m

BTR, the diversified industrial group, has sold its diesel engine-making division, Lister-Petter, to Schroder Ventures for £80 million as part of its plan to refocus the group on industrial manufacturing. In meetings with analysts last week, BTR pledged to sell about 30 per cent of its non-core businesses in the current year. This latest deal brings gross sale proceeds to £481 million.

Lister-Petter is based in Dursley, Gloucestershire, and has subsidiaries in the US and France as well as associate groups in South Africa and Colombia. — Tony May

Former Vulkan bosses sued

FOUR former senior managers at bankrupt German shipbuilder Bremer Vulkan are being sued for millions of marks in damages in an attempt to recover funds that went missing from the firm. Hans Janknecht, the public prosecutor in the north German city state of Bremen, said the German security service BVS had filed £4.2 million from each of the four men.

BVS has accused the former Bremer Vulkan managers of siphoning off more than 850 million marks in public funds earmarked to refurbish east German ships yards but used to cover losses at west German businesses instead. — Reuters

Amstrad loss-makers split off

AMSTRAD, the computer group, moved a step closer to an agreed takeover by Psion after agreeing to split off its loss-making consumer electronics business. Shares in Psion rose 15 per cent on the news, which dispelled concern in the City that the highly-rated palm-top computer group would be saddled with having to sell off unwanted Amstrad businesses after the takeover.

Alan Sugar, the Amstrad chairman, said he was splitting the consumer electronics business between Betacom, the consumer electronics company, which is 68 per cent owned by Amstrad, and a new, wholly owned subsidiary, Digicom Technology. The Amstrad, Sinclair and Fidelity brand names will be licensed to Betacom for audio, video and telecoms products. — Tony May

PFI accused of extravagance

THE Government's Private Finance Initiative is suffering from confusion, delay and unnecessary expense, and is failing to produce the promised boost to investment, the Adam Smith Institute says today. While strongly backing the principle of market think-tank criticises the Treasury's handling of the PFI.

The institute outlines a three-point plan to salvage the scheme. Responsibility for the PFI should be transferred to the Department for Trade and Industry, the number of bidders reduced to two or three to eliminate time-wasting, and bidders paperwork, which can at present include the brand of teapots to be used in hospital canteens, reduced. — Richard Thomas

Thorn sells security stake

THORN EMI is selling its stake in Thorn Security Group to Tyco International for £90.6 million, ahead of its demerger in August. The security unit still holds, redeeming the 42.5 per cent of loans issued when it first sold a stake in the group to management in May 1994.

Thorn will book a one-off gain of £28.6 million from the transaction. Its European management and Hambro European Ventures hold the majority stake in the security business. — Bloomberg

Philips cuts radio volume

PHILIPS Electronics has sold a majority stake in Philips Telecom PMR, its British-based private mobile radio unit, for £40 million to the stake was announced in April. The unit is based in Cambridge and employs about 1,500 people worldwide. — Bloomberg

AT&T dials Britain's top talkers

Nicholas Barnister Technology Editor

THE battle for Britain's private phone users got under way in earnest yesterday when AT&T, the largest and most powerful US telecommunications group, launched a service aimed at cutting profit margins to reduce charges. In addition, its residential operation had been started from scratch and with no costly legacy systems or products.

The Cable Communications Association yesterday said the cable companies were signing up about 61,000 new households a month, mostly from BT which has mounted a high-profile campaign to win back customers.

Cable companies already have 1.5 million residential customers and expect the

total to reach 2 million by the end of the year.

BT yesterday rejected CCA claims it was using "dirty tricks" to win people back. It said calls to an ex-directory former customers stemmed from a "software glitch" by the agency which used its data base to find the numbers of people who had switched to other operators.

A BT spokesman said of AT&T's new service: "The group is simply just another competitor, albeit the largest and most experienced we have faced so far."

The AT&T service is based on a standard call rate for each of four different areas — America, Europe, Asia, and Australia and New Zealand —

or a worldwide scheme offering their best call rates. Subscribers will pay a small quarterly charge to subscribe to any of the regional schemes and £5.99 before VAT for the global one. Subscribers will have to dial 143 before making a call in order to get it routed to AT&T's network.

The US group plans to introduce further residential services in the next few years, including multimedia products based on the Internet.

Mobile phone operator Vodafone said its UK subscriber base had risen by 108,000 to more than 2.5 million during the second quarter of 1996, while subscribers in overseas markets had gone up by 150,000 to 736,000.

Handwritten scribble: 2/11/1996

Cricket
County Championship: Worcestershire v Yorkshire

Resurgent Gough raises the stakes

David Foot at New Road
WITH 10 minutes of the first hour left Darren Gough steamed in and out-trapped Alamgir Sheryar...

over accounted for Moody. After that it was a question of whether Worcestershire would hold out...

30 when he tried to pull and top-edged to close tally. Yorkshire's bowlers were handled imaginatively...

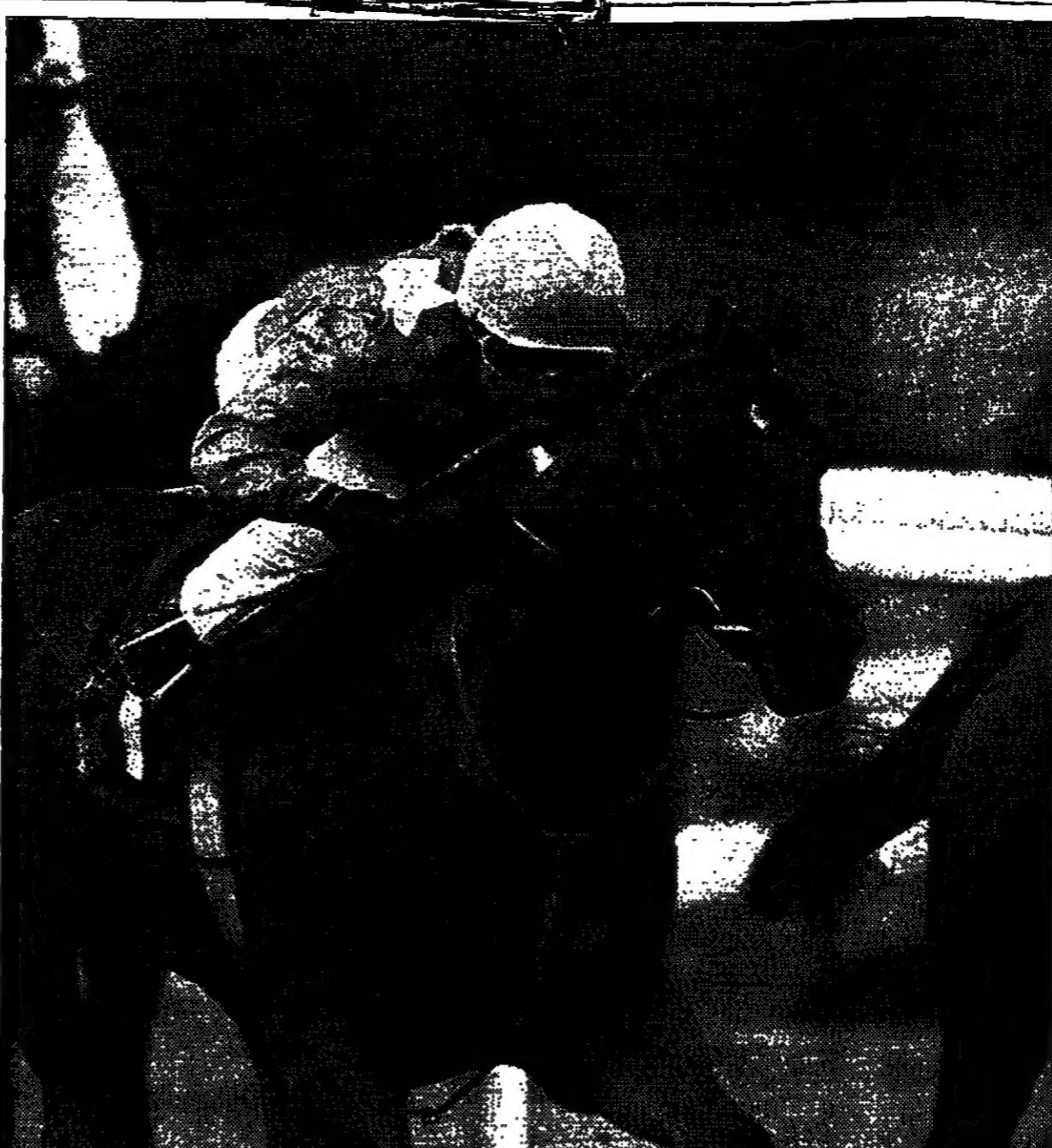
Tour match: Glamorgan v Pakistanis
Ata buoys his skipper

Mike Selvey at Pontypridd
GLAMORGAN have worked hard to gain their well-earned reputation for making touring teams feel welcome...

The last six months or so, particularly in the aftermath of the World Cup defeat by India, have been tough for Wasim...

Durham hopes doused

NOT for the first time in Durham's short career at the bottom of the top level they had their parade precipitated upon yesterday...



Doing the business... Emma O'Gorman brings Saseedo with a smooth run to get up on the line in the Active Business Services Handicap at Pontefract yesterday

Chepstow card with guide to the form

Table with columns for race number, name, odds, and other details for Chepstow races.

Table with columns for race number, name, odds, and other details for other races.

Scoreboard

Table showing scores for various cricket matches including Lancashire vs Somerset, Glamorgan vs Pakistanis, and others.

County table

Table showing league positions for various cricket counties.

Other news

Various short news items including mentions of players like Gough, Wasim, and others.

Racing
Halling 5-1 for Eclipse repeat

Godolphin could be double-handed in their bid to win Saturday's Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown...

With the Epsom form in tatters, Shaanit has something to prove. Whether that will be on Saturday depends on a work-out...

Results

Table showing race results for various events including Chepstow and other tracks.

Musselburgh runners and riders

Table listing names of runners and riders for Musselburgh races.

4.45 Chepstow card

Table with columns for race number, name, odds, and other details for Chepstow races.

RACELINE logo and contact information for betting services.

Motor Racing

Ferrari team chief offers to resign

Alan Henry

FERRARI's racing director Jean Todt yesterday offered to resign in the wake of the team's fiasco at the French Grand Prix...

aim of challenging for the world championship in 1997 now seems a forlorn hope. Many of the Ferrari's difficulties come from having to reassemble themselves with the demands of an established, world-class driver...

where Schumacher finished second behind Hill. Last month's Canadian Grand Prix saw Irvine retire with a broken suspension pushrod...

Tour de France

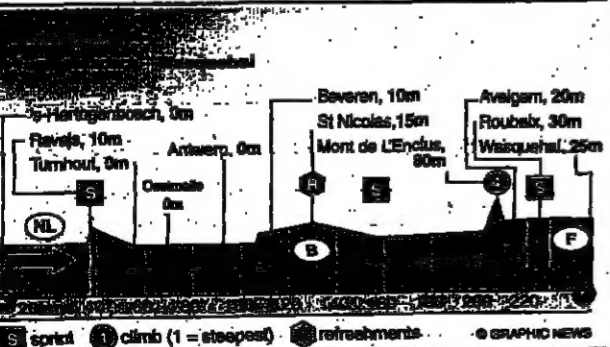
King Cipo dedicates this one to Sabrina

William Fotheringham in Wasquehal

AFTER costing his team some 550 Swiss francs (£290) in fines over the weekend, the king of the sprinters Mario Cipollini finally began to earn some prize money yesterday when he took the fourth Tour stage victory of his career...

the finish which, while it might have appeared terrifying to a mere mortal, is daily fare for the Italian and his nerveless peers. "A bit excessive," was his verdict. Cipollini put that piece of trick riding down to the fact that his team-mates failed to get him in the right place at the right time...

hearing about the woman who says they are in love with me," said Cipo. "And then I'm paid to pose with girls in the paper. Still, she knew it was never going to be easy marrying a media darling like me..."



William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly

WIMBLEDON



Growing pains... Martina Hingis, only 15, could not cope with Graf yesterday

Graf rebuts Navratilova's little leg-pull

Paul Weaver feels the chill as the paths of bitter rivals cross

MARTINA Navratilova is almost 40, an age when some find it difficult to burn the candle at even one end and crowd's feet thunder across a face like elephant's hooves...

both by the make-up department. After the match she said of Navratilova: "I wish what she said was true. She's lucky she doesn't have to live with them. I think she should know better than to say these things. Actually we saw each other in the locker room two days ago and she said she was sorry that it was put..."

A lurking gunslinger to rival Ivanisevic

Frank Keating finds an unheralded German already closing on 100 aces

BY THE time the afternoon rains arrived Goran Ivanisevic had not only lined up his heavy artillery on Court Two but had already popped off enough shells to take his championship tally of aces to 60...

slightly fudge the story. The legendary gunslinger Ivanisevic is averaging around 20 aces per match this Wimbledon because all his four victories so far, barring yesterday's four-set win over Patrick Rafter, have been in straight sets...

and, last, the shell flies in". Tanner used only a wooden racket. Neither then was a radar-gun in place on Wimbledon's two main show-courts to record service speeds...

Results

- Men's Singles: Helder: P Sampras (US) 6-2, 7-6, 6-2. Fourth round: J McEnroe (GB) vs J Hines (Switz) 6-4, 6-2...



Service power... Mary Pierce of France races to a straight-sets victory over the Russian Elena Likhovtseva

Rugby Union

Sky 'furious' over Welsh claims of TV domination

John Duncanson

SKY Television was yesterday "furious" at suggestions by the Welsh Rugby Union chairman Vernon Pugh that the broadcasting deal that the satellite channel is offering is heavy with conditions and would allow television to take over the game...

control the game, Mr Pugh should give his colleagues in the southern hemisphere a call and ask them how much control over the game we have there despite the TV deals. The answer is none..."

Boxing

Moorer charged after club incident

MICHAEL MOORER was charged yesterday with creating a disturbance at a social club in Monessen, Pennsylvania, eight days after regaining the IBF heavyweight title in Germany...

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday. Police were called to the club following a complaint that a man, later identified as Moorer, was being loud and disorderly. When they arrived, club employees had taken Moorer outside and a crowd of at least 100 people had gathered...

Rugby League

Arthurson surrenders his post at the ARL

Paul Fitzpatrick

KEN ARTHURSON, the man at the forefront of the Australian Rugby League's battle with Rupert Murdoch's Super League, is to relinquish his position as executive chairman of the ARL...

"We are looking at a restructuring of the league, and that has been public knowledge for some time," he added. "I believe that part of that restructuring should mean that we have only a chief-executive officer or an executive chairman. There are not many organisations that have both..."

A conspiracy charge against John Martin, a Wigan director, has been dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service after a "very careful review of all the evidence"...

Team talk

Table with columns for teams and scores. Includes teams like England, Scotland, Arsenal, Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Blackburn, Bolton, Brentford, Burnley, Chelsea, Coventry City, Derby County, and Everton.

SportsGuardian

WIMBLEDON: GRAF SURGES ON BETWEEN THE SHOWERS

Bold Henman battles into the last eight

Stephen Bierley sees the first Briton reach the men's quarter-finals since 1973

TIM HENMAN provided a shaft of light yesterday the like of which has not been seen for 23 years. Repeating the brilliant tennis that had swept away the French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the first round, he reached the quarter-finals in glorious sunshine as the showers finally abated.

It had been a frustrating day for Britain's No. 1. His fourth-round match with Magnus Gustafsson started just after 3pm and did not finish until nearly 7.45. The two men were on and off the Centre Court four times as showers interrupted play.

Henman eventually won 7-6, 6-4, 7-6 to become the first British player to reach the last eight since 1973. That was when Yorkshire's Roger Taylor went on to defeat Sweden's Bjorn Borg, making his Wimbledon debut, to reach the semi-final. What a stir there would be if Henman equalled that.

Britain's last finalist was Bunny Austin in 1938: the last winner the incomparable Fred Perry two years earlier. But this is getting into realms of fantasy.

When the match finally began at 3.13, Henman won his opening service game to love with an ace thrown in for good measure. On Saturday the Swede had been a touch curiously about the British player's serve.

An improvised overhead,

taken at an awkward angle, opened up two break-points on Gustafsson's opening serve. The Swede saved both but was broken on the third deuce. This was the best of all possible starts by Henman, and the Centre Court purred.

The British No. 1 held for a 2-0 lead but ever thickening clouds were rapidly losing any semblance of summer whiteness and filling grey with imminent rain.

Two excellent Henman volleys drew a tap of the racket from Gustafsson in appreciation but then in the seventh game came the break back.

The Swede hit a forehand winner off Henman's first serve and then a couple of errors suddenly opened up three break-points. Henman saved a couple but not the third, Gustafsson beating over another forehand winner.

Then, with the score at 15-15 in the eighth game, one of the day's many showers swept in. At this point there had been precisely 23 minutes' play.

About half an hour later the players returned, knocked up and departed. Henman waved the clouds away but to no avail. The rain was very light and the British player, no doubt knowing a thing or two about matters meteorological, hesitated. Alan Mills, the referee, ushered him off gently but firmly.

By now Dickie Bird would have been apoplectic. Where would it all end? Would it ever end? They were back

just before 5pm, to play another 12 minutes. Henman led 6-5.

This time it appeared the rain was here to stay. The Centre Court cover had been hoisted and there were steady drips of water falling from the saturated supporting ropes. The crowd huddled and hoped.

But the clouds suddenly lifted and a rainbow signalled renewed hope. Enough grey-blue to make an England shirt appear and the sun shone. Gustafsson levelled at 6-6 but Henman rattled through the tiebreak, climaxing with an ace to win it 7-3.

The Swede showed off his forehand early in the second set. Two pulsatingly struck passes flew diagonally past Henman as he lost his serve to love to go 2-0 down.

But Henman is a fighter. His backhand began to flow, uninhibited shots that had Gustafsson swiping at thin air as he scurried to retrieve.

The British player's concentration was intense; this, allied to his quality of shot, saw him get back level, cracking the Swede's serve with a sprawling, diving forehand volley at the net.

Gustafsson was in trouble now; he lost his serve again and Henman duly took a two-set lead. The third set also went to a tiebreak, although not before Henman had been 5-3 down.

At this sniff of danger Henman unleashed a marvellous array of telling shots, finishing the tiebreak at 7-4 with a kicking serve that Gustafsson returned wide. The Centre Court rose to its feet. It was wonderful to behold.



Tina spinner... Staff Graf crushed the 16-year-old Martina Hingis 6-1, 6-4, then responded to ungracious remarks from Martina Navratilova. Paul Weaver, page 15

A floating stadium fit for the world



Richard Williams

WE'RE like a bunch of oldies who've just got back from the amusement park. We had a good time, so can we do it again? Please? Now?

Hardly had Pierluigi Paireto blown the whistle to signal the end of Euro 96 before we were demanding to have another go. Okay, maybe not tomorrow or even next week. But there's a vacancy for a nation to host the World Cup in 2006. Why can't it be us?

Euro 96 was a success in almost every respect, emotionally and materially. It made people feel good and it helped refurbish the image of the game in the country where it was born.

It also made money. Not, it is true, for the host body. The Football Association will apparently be lucky to break even, although Uefa — which owns the tournament, and therefore the television and sponsorship rights — is looking forward to a handsome profit.

But the FA shouldn't grumble. It is not in existence principally to make a profit. And the popularity of the event will have done nothing but good to the Premiership and the FA Cup, the sources of its prosperity.

The true material satisfaction will be felt in the boardrooms of the sponsoring companies which received countless hours and column inches of publicity for their chocolates, bars, soft drinks, sports footwear and insurance policies. For the tournament's ability to command the front pages as well as the back will have justified the millions they fronted up to join the club, plus the vast additional sums spent on promoting their involvement.

The Americans were the first to make this kind of arrangement work, when Peter Ueberroth successfully pledged that the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles would reverse the massive losses previously racked up in Montreal and Moscow.

That was the moment when major sports events wholeheartedly embraced free-market capitalism, a philosophy whose triumph was con-

firmed 10 years later with USA 94, when capitalism proved that it could take a major tournament and make it flourish *in vitro*, totally removed from its habitual sources of nourishment.

But the conditions must be right, at least by Fifa's standards, which is why it is hard to imagine the World Cup returning to Brazil. Nowhere does football's heart beat more powerfully than in Rio and Sao Paulo, yet the country of Pele and Romario has not hosted the World Cup since 1950.

Brazil's economy and its infrastructure do not appeal to the game's governing body, which is why money from Fuji, the Hans Corporation and Coca-Cola will never be used to rebuild the crumbling concrete bowls that are the game's true temples, even though the tournament would be valueless without the actual team's participation.

ENGLAND, by contrast, has all the prerequisites, plus the aptitude for this specialised task. We are good at this sort of thing nowadays. If we no longer manufacture anything much, we have certainly mastered the more modern skill of marketing. And in a world where entertainment is replacing work as the main focus of existence, this is a significant attribute.

So it would not be entirely frivolous to propose these projects as a long-term replacement for the vanished industrial base. Britain could become a sort of floating stadium for the world, just as pre-revolutionary Cuba functioned as an offshore casino for the United States.

Events like Euro 96 and the World Cup also feed the current British appetite for sensation. It is possible to look at the interest aroused by the events of last month and be slightly shocked that mere sport should so preoccupy the nation, a phenomenon that makes sense only when considered as part of a higher narrative, a continuum of over-excitement also taking in the vicissitudes of the Royal Family, the agencies of New Labour, the occasional mass murder and, in between times, the quasi-stardom of Paula Yates, Pamela Anderson, Chris Evans and Michael Barrymore.

Thanks to the tabloids, now in sole charge of the national agenda, the English have lost their capacity to endure the fast periods between the moments of hyper-excitement. So the question is no longer whether we can afford to have the World Cup. It is whether we can afford not to have it.

An honours list with omens that look Taylor-made for Britain

TIM HENMAN is only the 10th British player to reach the quarter-finals of the men's singles in the past 70 years — and the first unseeded Briton to do so in the open era.

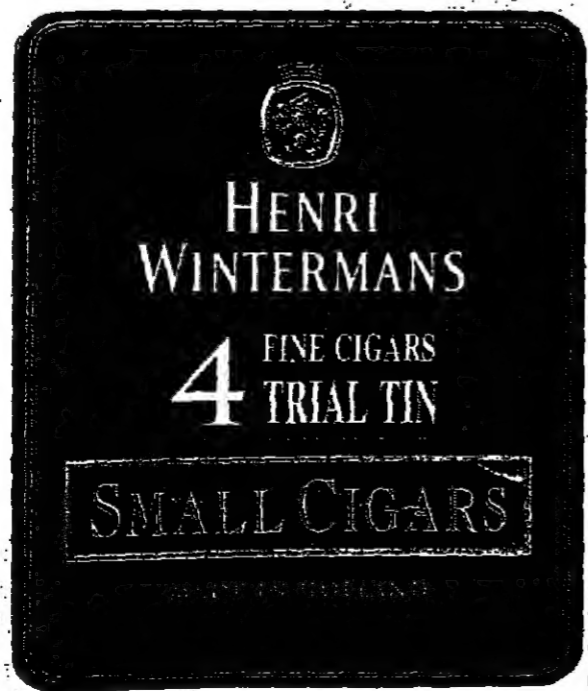
The only Britons to have reached the last eight since the war were Tony Mottram (once), Mike Sangster (once), Bobby Wilson (three times) and Roger Taylor (three times).

The only British men to make the semi-finals since

1926 are Bunny Austin, Fred Perry, Sangster and Taylor. Perry won in 1934, 1935 and 1936 — the first three years in which Henry Billington, Henman's grandfather, played the championships.

It is the first time since 1984, when John Lloyd made the quarter-finals at the US Open, that a British man has gone so far in a Grand Slam event. Lloyd earned \$20,000; Henman is guaranteed £51,025.

It's true: the best things do come in small packages.



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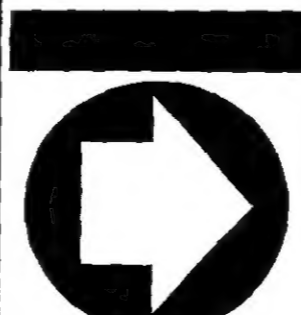
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SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning



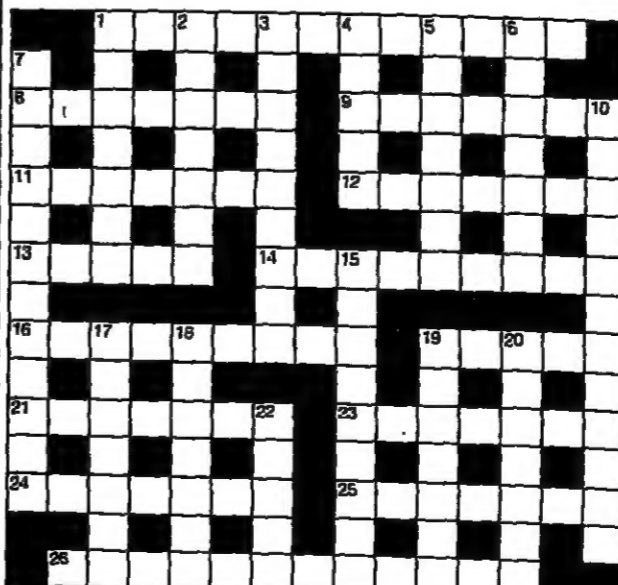
But Freud — unlike Bacon — does not, largely, delude himself with the fantasy that he can paint more than appearances.

Adrian Searle

G2 page 8

Guardian Crossword No 20,694

Set by Logodaedalus



Across

- 1 Poor U.K. food consumed by Eastern European prodigals (5,7)
- 8 Arithmetic for letter-writers? (7)
- 9 Bill in street car: test reversing into felices (3-4)
- 11 No women could be unlucky when seen through the window (3,9)
- 12 Condition of paid player: well after six? (7)
- 13 Deposit last bit of money in one's discomfort (3,2)
- 14 After a jiffy, one unfinished whisky is of lesser importance (9)
- 16 Recurve backing Rose to hire about four (5)
- 19 Gentleman grips piano wood (5)
- 21 Entrance for travelling singers (7)
- 23 Sunshade — standard one — so gets left behind (7)

Down

- 1 Margaret not here? Work on diligently! (3,4)
- 2 Like silent trumpet, starting up noisily but leaving out wobbly notes (7)
- 3 Identifies a gin mixed up in measured portions (9)
- 4 Senior citizen keeps religious work readily available (2,3)
- 5 Caricature portrays a bird embracing a legislator (7)
- 6 Good man with a bird needing grit (7)
- 7 Missionary ain't found in resort with cheat (5,7)
- 10 A clerk goes to a party in Sunday School like Scheherazade & Co (5-7)



Crossword Solution 20,694

- 15 Record data for eccentric person — Judy's man (4,5)
- 17 Rational but common soldier is seen in pub (7)
- 18 Changing what postman might do with twenty-second letter (7)
- 19 Amie perhaps captures one inhabitant of a planet (7)
- 20 This hobby reveals father's age (7)
- 22 Set up Galileo's head in this exhibition (5)

Solution tomorrow

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.